

HAK *Chuan*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

(28995)

SECRET/SENSITIVEINFORMATION

June 3, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT:

Wholesale Expulsion of our Diplomats
from Madagascar: President of Madagascar
Sending Personal Representative to You

25X1

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED] This action has been accompanied by a number of public statements by President Tsiranana charging an unidentified major power with interference in Madagascar's domestic affairs. It is now an open secret in Madagascar that we are the "major power" involved and the press is beginning to write stories accordingly.

25X1

25X1

We have no choice but to pull the Ambassador out, and Ambassador Marshall will arrive in Washington next Monday. He is a political appointee, the son of Mrs. Vincent Brooke Astor and a major Republican contributor [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

This morning, there were two new developments. The Madagascar Foreign Minister informed our Ambassador that five additional members of our Embassy staff should leave Madagascar immediately. They include the [REDACTED] a State Department political officer, the Embassy Administrative officer, and two USIA employees. As with Ambassador Marshall, the Madagascar Government asked that we withdraw these people voluntarily "on consultation" and replace them. That subtlety, however, has little meaning in view of the widespread publicity given to this affair in Madagascar.

SECRET / SENSITIVE

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In another development, the Madagascar Ambassador informed the State Department this morning that a personal emissary of President Tsiranana to you will arrive in Washington tomorrow and would like to see you sometime next week to present the evidence of American wrong-doing and, assumedly, otherwise explain these developments to you.

We are genuinely unable to ascertain what has caused this dust up. The Madagascar authorities have thus far not provided us with any specifics about the charge of interference in their domestic affairs, although the Madagascar President continues to assert that he has irrefutable evidence of such interference. [] a total loss as to what the "irrefutable evidence" might be. There is some speculation that the French may have stirred all this up in irritation at Ambassador Marshall's considerable success in getting American investment into the French preserve of Madagascar. There is also speculation that the Madagascar President, who has simultaneously arrested his heir apparent, may simply be using the United States cynically as a scapegoat to justify his domestic political moves. There is, however, no evidence for either of these theories and I find neither of them very convincing.

At least at this stage, I cannot conceive that it would be wise for you to receive the Madagascar emissary. I do think, however, that we should find out what he has to say. I believe that this can best be done in a low key by a member of my staff, working in concert with the State Department.

Our major interest in all this seems to me to be twofold: (1) to avoid losing the NASA tracking station in Madagascar, and (2) to try to prevent this affair from blowing up into a full-fledged [] scandal. In view of the performance of the Madagascar Government the chances for the first look pretty good and the chances for the second rather bleak.

25X1

MEMORANDUM

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WASHINGTON

ACTION

June 3, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: Marshall Wright *MW*

SUBJECT: Our Troubles in Madagascar

*What are the facts
- get report by
June 9.*

The plot thickens nicely on this affair. As you know, our Ambassador, Tony Marshall, was given five days to get out. This morning the Madagascarians ordered five more members of our staff out, [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1 Formally, they are not being PNG'd but recalled 25X1 by us for consultation from which they will not return to Madagascar. In view of the publicity this is now receiving in Madagascar, however, that subtle distinction has no real meaning. The latest complication involves our President directly. State was informed this morning by the Madagascar Ambassador that President Tsiranana's personal emissary to President Nixon will arrive in Washington tomorrow and would like to see President Nixon some time next week. The emissary is supposed to be bringing the "irrefutable evidence" of American interference in Madagascar domestic affairs which their President keeps referring to in public speeches, without specifically identifying the U.S. as the culprit. It is possible, but not likely, that they have something on us.

25X1 There are several aspects of this that are troublesome: (1) Tony Marshall is a major Republican campaign contributor. [redacted] 25X1 and the nature of the expulsions give this whole story a potential for becoming a big international scandal, however unjustifiable. (3) We have a NASA tracking station in Madagascar which is the only alternative to the one in South Africa and therefore a useful backup that we would not want to lose. (4) In general, our relations with Madagascar have been excellent with benefits accruing to us in such things as moderation in African councils and support on United Nations issues such as Chinese Representation and the resolution regarding prisoners of war in Vietnam.

All in all, this affair has developed to the point where the President should know of it. Thus the attached memo from you to the President filling him in on the present state of play.

RECOMMENDATION: That you initial the attached memo to the President at Tab A.